(b) if so, the details of issues discussed therein and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the follow up action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following Agenda items were discussed in the meeting:—

(i) Sarkaria Commission Report, Chapter Vl-emergency Provisions; Recommendation for Amendment to Article 356 of the Constitution and other related Recommendations;

(ii) Guidelines for identifying and selection of issues and the procedure for conduct of business of the Council and its Committees;

(iii) Chapter-XI Economic and Social Planning;

(iv) Implementation Report on decisions of Inter-State Council on the Recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. In the discussions there was no unanimity over articles 355 and 356 of the Constitution of India. However, the matter continues to be debated in a sub-committee set up by the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council.

The Recommendations of the Inter-State Council will be communicated to the Union Ministries and the State Governments concerned for follow up action.

Illegal Bangladeshis in India

192. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the special task force has reported presence of one crore and eighty lakh illegal Bangladeshi migrants settled in India, out of which 1.20 crores are in West Bengal alone;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) what action is being taken/has been taken to repatriate those illegal settlers from the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) It is difficult to make any exact estimate of the number of illegal immigrants from bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and lingustic similarities.

(c) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These include raising of additional Battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipment etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been directed to enforce the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 (IMDT Act 1983 in caser of Assam) strictly.

Issuing of Citizens' Cards

193. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for issuing Citizens' cards for the entire population of the country;

(b) if so, the purpose, modalities and the probable date of issue; and